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ESTIMATE OF EVAPORATION FOR THE ARAPAHO NWR, CO

Based on the 1982 NOAA maps for the nation from the period of 1956-1970 the Arapaho NWR experiences 40 inches of evaporation a year. This estimate is for a free water surface of shallow lakes.

Annual average precipitation is 9.7 inches. This is from a nearby weather station (Walden, CO). It is based on the same period of record that NOAA used to develop the evaporation maps (1956-1970).

The State of Colorado also uses the 1982 NOAA Maps to estimate evaporation from a free water surface. To estimate evapotranspiration which might approximate the effect of vegetation the State uses the Blaney-Criddle method. This method requires knowing the monthly percentage of total annual daylight hours and the mean monthly temperature.